

## Quick Tips

- Keyboard shortcuts can save you a lot of time. Shortcut keys are indicated next to most menu items. To perform the action, just press the indicated keys.
- Use *Google* as a calculator! In the *Google* search box, type a calculation and press return to see the answer. Get more info here <http://www.google.com/help/features.html#calculator>
- Use *Google* as a dictionary! To get definitions of a word, type the word define, then a colon, and then the word in the *Google* search box (e.g. define:photosynthesis). Get more info here <http://www.google.com/help/features.html#definitions>

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## April Showers

**...bring May flowers (or floods). Let's hope our soggy April turns into a delightfully sunny May as we begin our countdown to summer and make some...**

## Summer Plans

It's time to start thinking about summer and making plans for how to spend July and August. Many of us use the summer break as a time for professional development. Sometimes it's easier to focus on our own learning when we're not caught up in the daily drama of school life.

In this issue of *MLTI Update* we highlight four professional development opportunities that we think might be beneficial for MLTI teachers. They all offer some level of technology training embedded in the work teachers will do around curriculum, best practices, and assessment. In our experience, the best technical training for teachers is done in the context of good pedagogy, rather than simply teaching teachers how to use a particular piece of software or hardware.

We encourage teachers to attend these sessions with a team from their school. Attending as a team makes it easier for teachers to plan how they will use what they have learned and it may be the jump start they need for developing some integrated units. It's also valuable to have a support group for sharing ideas and helping to relate what you're learning to the situation at your school.

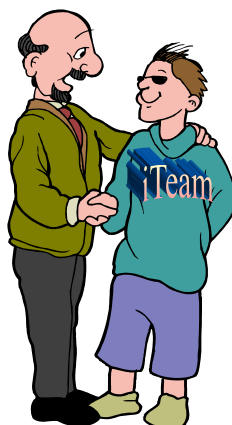
Whether attending as an individual or a team, we hope that teachers who take advantage of these courses will take their new knowledge back to their schools and share with other educators. We have learned that the schools that are most successful in implementing one-to-one computing have some kind of in-house technical support and staff development in place. This support takes many forms, from hiring a Tech Integrator to simply identifying those teachers who have gained skills and experience in teaching with technology and are willing to mentor others.

If you know of other courses or workshops that are being offered this summer, please let us know. We are in the process of updating our calendar on *MaineLearns* and hope to include as many events of interest to MLTI teachers as possible.

## iTeam Conference

The 2nd Annual MLTI iTEAM Conference, in cooperation with the University of Maine's New Media Program, will be held on Friday, May 13th at the University of Maine at Orono. Cost will be \$5 per person (lunch is on your own).

The purpose of this conference is to aid schools in organizing or improving a student tech team (iTeam). It's an opportunity for students and teachers to acquire the technical and interpersonal skills they need to assist others in using technology for teaching and learning. It's also a



chance for students to make new friends and have fun. The sessions offer a wide range of experiences including digital imaging, digital music, technical writing, video editing, and much more. For more information and to register, visit

[http://www.mainelearns.org/materials/2005\\_iteam\\_conf.html](http://www.mainelearns.org/materials/2005_iteam_conf.html)



*Click on Registration and Information Page*

## Middle Level Education Institute

The 2005 Middle Level Education Institute will be held June 26-30 at the University of Maine at Orono.

This institute is an opportunity for teams of middle level educators to work together on a project with the assistance of a variety of consultants. Participants can also attend sessions during the week on a broad range of topics of interest to middle school teachers. Teachers are encouraged to attend as school teams but individuals are welcome also.

This year the institute will follow a new format where participants will meet with consultants the



first day to negotiate the curriculum for the week. This ensures that the sessions offered truly meet the participants' needs. For more information, visit <http://www.mamleonline.org/events/mlei05.html> or contact Gert Nesin at [gert.nesin@umit.maine.edu](mailto:gert.nesin@umit.maine.edu)

## Summer Technology Institute

The College of Education and Human Development of the University of Maine is sponsoring a Summer

Technology Institute to be held at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, June 20-24. This is a week-long course that participants can take for graduate credit or CEUs.

The institute offers a wide variety of sessions that are designed to help teachers learn more about using technology to enhance



teaching and learning. Instructors come from all over Maine and will be leading sessions in iMovie, digital photography, web page construction, digital music, GIS, blogs, and much, much more.

Accommodations will be made for teachers who cannot start on the 20<sup>th</sup> because additional days have been added to their schools calendars to make up for snow days. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.summertech.org/>. Jim Chiavacci is the institute's director and he can be contacted at [jimc@umit.maine.edu](mailto:jimc@umit.maine.edu).

## Universal Design

All-Tech and MLTI are collaborating to offer *Teaching and Learning through Universal Design - iBook-to-iBook*, a course for teachers in any content area who are or will be teaching in a one-to-one computing environment. The course will be held June 27-July 1 in All-Tech's Cindy Carroll Technical Classroom at the Spurwink Institute, Pineland Farms, New Gloucester.

Because this course is funded by a grant from Unum Provident Corporation, participants who take it for contact hours or CEUs will pay no



fee. Teachers seeking graduate credit should register through USM and pay the graduate tuition rate. Upon completion of the course, teachers will be invited to join a Universal Design focus group that meets quarterly.

For more information, contact Cynthia Curry, [c Curry@alltech-tsi.org](mailto:c Curry@alltech-tsi.org) or 866 688-4573, ext 144.

## Creative Music Technology

Music teachers, or anyone interested in learning more about digital music in education, should check out a course being offered this summer at USM.

MUE 595: *Creative Music Technology* will meet August 1-5 on the USM campus and can be taken for 3 graduate credits. According to instructors Alan Kashub and Douglas Owens, this class will "examine an array of software, train music teachers in its use, and examine how these tools can be best utilized in K-12 music curricula." The class will focus on Apple Computer's *GarageBand*, *iTunes*, *iMovie* and

*iDVD* but other software will be discussed. Teachers are encouraged to bring their own laptops, if they have them, but the classes will take place in a lab so everyone will have computer access.

For more information, contact Alan Kashub, phone 207-780-5387, email [kashub@maine.edu](mailto:kashub@maine.edu); or Douglas Owens 207-780-5260 [dowens@usm.maine.edu](mailto:dowens@usm.maine.edu). For



registration information visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/SummerSession/>

## Wanted: Cartoonist

Do you know a student who likes to draw and would be interested in becoming the official MLTI cartoonist?

Andrew Greenstone, who has held that position since the inception of *MLTI Update*, will retire at the end of the school year. He will attend Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall and his busy schedule will leave him no time to do favors for his mother. He does promise, however, that when he becomes rich and famous he will attribute his success to the wonderful opportunity he had, during his formative years, to

hone his cartooning skills here, at *MLTI Update*.

So look around you and see if there's isn't some young aspiring artist, doodling in the margins of his/her math homework, who could use a creative outlet. If you know of such a person, please contact Barbara Greenstone at [bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org](mailto:bgreenstonemam@middlemaine.org). When we find our next cartoonist, we will make an announcement, with great hooplah, here in the pages of *MLTI Update*.



Cartoonist's self portrait

## MLTI Update

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Read MLTI Update online!

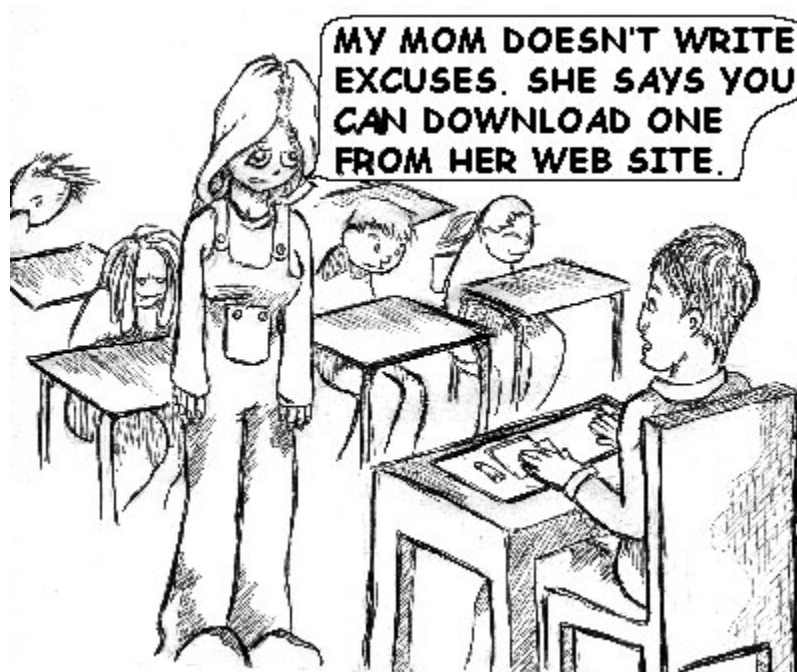
<http://www.mainelearns.org>



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## Kudos to...

... Gerry Crocker, Susan Johnson, and Julie Meltzer for planning and delivering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning classes held at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast.



## Quote of the Month

"...if we teach today as we taught yesterday,  
we rob our children of tomorrow."

~John Dewey

## Barbara's and Kelly's Favorites

Barbara's favorites this month are all about graphic organizers. Graphic organizers are wonderful tools for helping students organize information in a way that appeals to visual learners. Some schools use Inspiration® software (<http://www.inspiration.com>) to create graphic organizers but, if your school doesn't have the funds to purchase extra software, you can use the AppleWorks drawing program to create your own.

To learn about graphic organizers, visit <http://www.writedesignonline.com/organizers/>. Two teachers from San Diego Jewish Academy collaborated on this page which is part of their WriteDesign Online project. It includes 20

examples of graphic organizers and links them to the thought processes for which a student might find them useful.

Another site you will want to visit is <http://www.somers.k12.ny.us/intranet/skills/thinkmaps.html>. Here you will find some ClarisWorks graphic organizers that you can download. (They will open in AppleWorks.) They can be used as templates or models for organizers that kids can make themselves. This site was prepared by the staff of the Somers Central School District in Lincolndale, NY.

**Next Month: Kelly's Favorites.**